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Development of a European network of libraries

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DEVELOPMENT OF A EUROPEAN NETWORK OF LIBRARIES

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Some Trends in the Library World

- Integration of digital library with teaching, learning and research
- More focus on E-Learning
- Management of digital objects
- Development of Institutional Repositories
- Preservation and Digital Archiving
- Personalisation
- Co-operation and Consortium development

Co-operation in Europe

- Regional Consortia
- National Consortia
- European ICOLC
- European Organisations, e.g. LIBER
- Subject oriented cooperation

General Trend in Co-operation

- United we can achieve more
- Resource sharing, cataloguing, Inter library loan etc.
- Stronger position in negotiations with publishers and other vendors
- Some cases: centralisation of system management, IT Support
- Prepared to give up some autonomy

Subject oriented cooperation in Europe

- > TEL
- > RENARDUS
- > EULER
- > SOSIG
- > Nereus

The European Library (TEL)

- Co-operative project of 8 national libraries
- Goal: Integrated access to the collections of the national libraries of Europe
- Agreement on a business model for “the European Library Service”
- Establishment of agreed metadata profiles for objects and collections

EULER

- A European based virtual library for mathematics
- Reference and delivery service
- Full coverage of mathematics literature world-wide
- Gateway to electronic catalogues and repositories of participating institutions
- Use of Dublin Core metadata
- Participants: the European Mathematical Society, FIZ Karlsruhe, UB Gottingen, CWI Amsterdam, University of Florence

RENARDUS

- A trusted source of selected, high quality Internet Resources for HE in Europe
- Integrated search and browse access
- Subject gateway services
- Covers all subjects
- Hosted at UB Göttingen

The Social Science Information Gateway (SOSIG)

- A freely available Internet service
- Trusted source of high quality Internet information in the social sciences, business and law
- Part of UK Resource discovery Network
- Grapevine: training and development opportunities
- Next phase: to go beyond Internet resources
- Funded by JISC
- Business model unclear

Workshop European Subject Portals Projects at Tilburg University: main conclusions

- Trust is important (users, partners, publishers)
- Sustainability is essential
- Primarily of interest to young researchers and students
- Academic content of established researchers
- Support from academics/societies essential
- Relationship with publishers: competition or collaboration
- Prepared to cannibalize both own and other products

NEREUS

(Network of Economics Resources for European Scholars)

- Network of excellence in the field of economics
- A portal and search engine which makes first-rate academic information accessible to the European academic community, irrespective of location, type or format
- A model infrastructure for the development of integrated subject-specific information services
- In order to have a positive influence on Europe's education and research output

Partners

- London School of Economics (UK)
- Tilburg University (NL)
- European University Institute
- German National Library for Economics in Kiel (DE)
- Université Libre de Bruxelles (BE)
- Erasmus University Rotterdam (NL)
- More partners will join

Partners provide

- General economics research resources of great depth and breadth
- Resources of particular interest or uniqueness e.g. regional or national resources or fundamental research data not available elsewhere
- Innovative technical approaches

Content in 'Nereus'

- Working papers
- Content of institutional repositories
- Journal Full Text databases
- Socio Economic Datasets
- Reference Databases
- Databases of Link Collections

The result of this international cooperation should be

- Added-value service provision
- Improvement of cost-effectiveness, avoid duplication of efforts
- Knowledge exchange, pool expertise and joint activities
- Increase the profile of one's library, university and its output

Joint activities

- Identification of overlaps in administrative tasks
- Development of an information specialist network in economics
- Development of an EU library technical expertise network
- International R&D funding proposals

Critical success factors

- Business model
- Long-term funding
- Subject cooperation across borders versus national cooperation
- Strong support structures: both content en technical
- Market analysis
- Added value for end-users and partner libraries: both service and content

Why should we try it?

- Increasing international orientation of our researchers and students: provide them with the same support wherever they are
- We can make a better use of the unique resources we have and share these for the benefit of advances in research and teaching
- Introduction of Bachelor/Master system in Europe: new challenges for exchange and mobility of researchers and students
- We identify good opportunities for back office cooperation. We can avoid duplication and redefine priorities and strenghts of individual libraries

More information

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